



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **GERMAN INTERNET CHILD PORNOGRAPHY PROBE LEADS TO ARREST OF BAY AREA WRITER**

SAN FRANCISCO — A freelance writer appeared in federal court here earlier today to face charges of possessing child pornography. Kenneth Michael Kelley, 55, was arrested without incident at his home this morning by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents.

The investigation into Kelley began after German authorities searched a Düsseldorf residence in November 2003 and found hundreds of emails containing child pornography. Many of those emails had been sent or received by computer users in the United States. German authorities contacted the ICE attaché office in Frankfurt and ICE began following up on the leads nationwide.

In November, ICE agents obtained a federal warrant to examine the contents of Kelley's email accounts. That search revealed Kelley had sent and received more than 500 child pornographic images and movie files over the Internet.

"Those who engage in the exploitation of children should no longer expect distance or the anonymity of cyberspace to protect them," said Charles DeMore, special agent-in-charge of ICE investigations in the Bay Area. "ICE is using all of its law enforcement authorities to combat this horrific behavior both here and abroad."

Kelley is due back in federal court February 15 for a bail status hearing. In the meantime, he was released, but is subject to electronic monitoring. If convicted of the current charges, Kelley faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.

Kelley's arrest is part of Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 4,900 individuals, including nearly 1,400 in California.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*